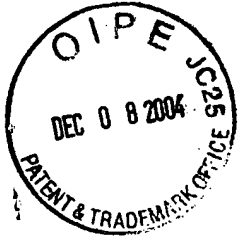


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01263.001750

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: M. Lerner
JEBU JACOB RAJAN)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2654
Application No.: 09/866,854)	
	:	
Filed: May 30, 2001)	
	:	
For: SPEECH PROCESSING SYSTEM)	December 8, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated November 8, 2004.

In the Office Action, it was alleged that the inventions of Group I (Claims 1-28, 32-60 and 64-66), drawn to "an apparatus and method for determining a quality measure, where a probability density for parameters of a predetermined audio model is applied to derive samples of parameter values for an input audio signal," classified in class 704, subclass 240; and Group II (Claims 29-31 and 61-63), drawn to "an apparatus and method for searching a database comprising a plurality of annotations which include annotation data and a quality measure, where

a quality measure is determined for an input audio query,” classified in class 707, subclass 3, are distinct because they are separately usable subcombinations.

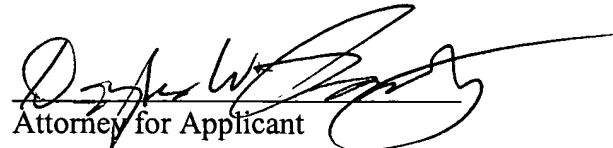
However, Applicant respectfully submits that the two groups of claims are closely related and that a proper search of any of the claims of one group would likely include a search of the claims of the other group. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously and that a duplicative search with possibly inconsistent results may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained. Therefore, in the interest of economy, both for the Office and Applicant, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully solicited.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.143, Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group I, namely, Claims 1-28, 32-60 and 64-66. Applicant notes the Examiner’s indication that Claims 32 and 64 link the inventions of Groups I and II.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. Office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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